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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/822,175	04/02/2001	Kazuhiko Yanagawa	HITA.0045	7332

7590

03/05/2003

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EXAMINER

RUDE, TIMOTHY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/822,175

Applicant(s)

YANAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy L Rude

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 December 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

1. Claims 3-6 are canceled. Claim 1 is amended.

Specification

2. The specification is amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

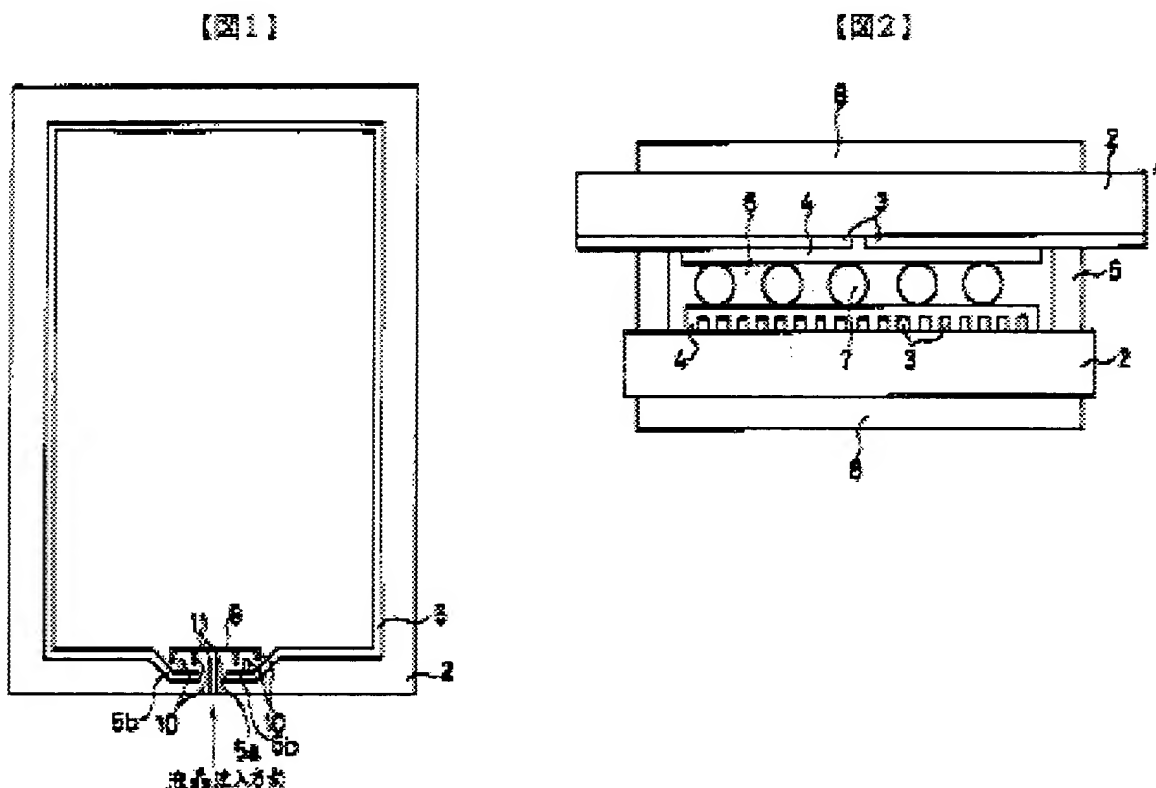
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Misono et al (Misono) Japanese Patent Abstract Publication 06-034984.

As to claim 1, Misono discloses in Drawings 1 and 2 a liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates, 2, as disposed to spatially oppose each other with a layer of liquid crystal material interposed therebetween (Abstract) and a seal material, 5, used for adhesion of one of the substrates to a remaining substrate, said seal material also having a function of encapsulating the liquid crystal material, wherein: more than one spacer filled [0017] (Applicant's projection body), 9, 10, and 11, seal material portion, is disposed within said seal material along an extending direction

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thereof (per Drawing 1), and this projection body is formed at either one of said respective substrates [0017]. Said seal material portions (Applicant's projection bodies) being formed of UV cured resin to a predetermined shape [0015].



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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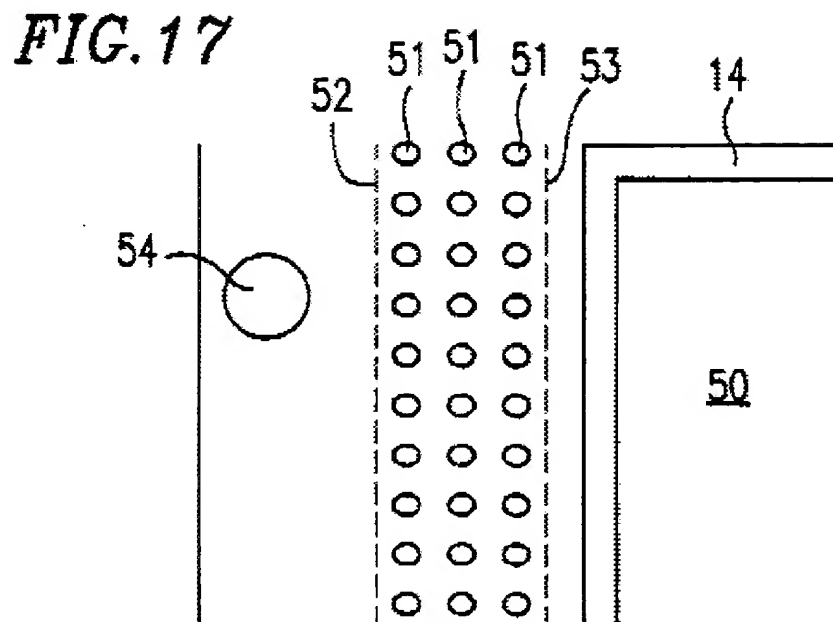
invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Misono, as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Nakahara et al (Nakahara) USPAT 6,239,855 B1.

As to claim 2, Misono discloses the liquid crystal display device as recited in claim 1.

Misono does not disclose a device wherein said projection body comprises a plurality of parallel-disposed projection bodies, it would have been obvious given Nakahara.

Nakahara teaches in Figure 17 a device comprising a plurality of parallel-disposed sealant particles, 51, (Applicant's projection bodies) to minimize stress distortion and waviness of the glass plates (col. 12, line 66 through col. 13, line 8).



Nakahara is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a plurality of parallel-disposed sealant particles (Applicant's projection bodies) to minimize stress distortion and waviness of the glass plates

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of Misono with the plurality of parallel-disposed sealant particles (Applicant's projection bodies) of Nakahara.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 06 December 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

(1) None of the cited prior art teaches photolithographically formed projection bodies of predetermined shape within said seal material.

(2) The cited prior art teaches non-uniformly dispersed spacers in the seal material which is the exact type of prior art the present invention tried to avoid.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

(1) It is respectfully pointed out that Misono teaches photolithographically formed projection bodies of predetermined shape within said seal material per rejection above. It is noted that the recitation "within said seal material" is interpreted broadly as anywhere within the outermost perimeter of the seal, including anywhere within the display area.

(2) It is respectfully pointed out that there are no claim recitations to preclude non-uniformly dispersed spacers in the seal material. Furthermore, the claims do not even specify a spacer, let alone parallel rows of uniformly dispersed spacers embedded in seal material formed about the entire perimeter of the display device.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (703) 305-0418. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3492. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.



Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

TLR
January 27, 2003



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